of quality faculty as more and more academicians are lured by higher-paying private sector institutes;

(b) if so, the details of Government's action to arrest the trend;

(c) whether Government will also consider hiking salaries of highly skilled faculty in courses like biotechnology and computer sciences, to prevent them from taking professional jobs in the private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The Higher Education Institute are appointing faculty as per minimum qualifications laid down by the University Grants Commission. The pay scales of teachers are based on norms of the Government.

Mid-day meal scheme in Goa

619. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether mid-day meal scheme is proposed to be extended to middle schools in Goa;

(b) whether Government have received any communication in this regard from the Goa Government;

(c) whether mid-day meal scheme for middle schools is financed by Government on the pattern of existing scheme;

(d) whether Government's pattern of assistance to the existing scheme has been increased uniformly or otherwise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Central Government to extend Mid-Day Meal Scheme to middle schools in any State/UT. However, the Govt. of Goa has proposed to extend mid-day meal scheme to six less developed talukas covering all students of Standard Vth to Xth from their own funds.

(d) and (e) The Central Government, in June, 2006, has decided to enhance the cooking cost norm from existing Re. 1 per child per school day to Rs. 1.50 subject to mandatory contribution of minimum fifty paise by States & UTs to reach the overall cost norm of Rs. 2. For the States of North-Eastern Region, the Central assistance would be Rs. 1.80 per child per school day with mandatory minimum contribution of twenty paise by them.

In addition to the above, where convergence with other programmes is not feasible, assistance for construction of kitchen-cum-store and cooking/kitchen devices would be provided from the funds of the Scheme.

Unemployment of trained teachers

620. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of trained teachers in the country are facing the problem of unemployment due to inadequate employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any action plan with a view to provide them with adequat employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) This information is not Centrally maintained.

(c) The prevalent conditions differ from State to State and the States are free to take appropriate action in this regard.

Setting up of public colleges

621. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under active consideration of Government to set up Public Colleges on the pattern of Public Schools in the country;